[24th August 1955

Contribution by district boards for Local Development Works.

* 2235 *Q.*—Sri V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliar: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state why the District Boards in the State have been prevented from contributing one-fourth of the cost of Local Development Works from District Board Funds?

The Hon. Sri S. S. Ramasamy Padayachi :—" The district boards in this State have not been prevented from contributing one-fourth of the cost of Local Development Works. District Boards which have deficits in their General or Elementary Education Account and which require ex-gratia grant from State funds towards such deficits caused by the payment of dearness allowance to their staff have, however, been required to obtain the previous sanction of the Government for the payment of the contribution, pointing out the source from which the expenditure on the payment of contribution will be met."

Sri V. K. Ramaswamy Mudaliar :—" Sir, almost all the district boards in the State are having deficit budgets. At least 11 of them are having deficit budgets. Still, it is possible for some of them to adjust their budget and provide for contribution to necessary and urgent work. That being the case, why should the Government stand in the way? "

The Hon. Sri S. S. Ramasamy Padayachi :—" Sir, we are not standing in the way. It is only with reference to the district boards which depend upon the Government for funds in certain cases, we want that they must obtain our permission. That is all."

Reward given to some persons in Palni taluk.

* 2236 *Q.*—Sri V. Madanagopal : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any reward was given on 8th October 1953 by the District Collector to some persons in the village of Vellore near Chatrapatti, Palni taluk, who were involved in causing damages to the properties of other villagers; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" (*a*) & (*b*) I must say, Sir, that the suggestion in the hon. Member's question is not only incorrect but also mischievous in its purport. I need hardly deny that Government made any rewards to persons who broke other people's properties anywhere."

Improvement of labour conditions in plantations.

* 2237 *Q.*—Sri S. R. Arumugam : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Lady Welfare Officer, Coonoor, has submitted proposals to improve the conditions of labour in plantations; and